

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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R 041915Z JAN 78

FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8498
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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
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SECRET USNATO 00071

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI
SUBJECT: TRAVELS OF THE KIEV

REF: (A) SAACLANT INTSUM 032022Z JAN 78 (NOTAL),
(B) USNATO 6128, NOV 10 76, DTG 101325Z NOV 76

1. WE WISH TO DRAW ADDRESSEES' ATTENTION TO REF (A) WHICH REPORTS THAT KIEV HAS MOVED SOUTHWARD FROM BARENTS SEA TO MEDITERRANEAN. ALTHOUGH KIEV MAY RETURN NORTH, WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT IT IS EN ROUTE TO THE BLACK SEA WHICH OF COURSE WOULD INVOLVE A TRANSIT OF THE TURKISH STRAITS, AND, POSSIBLY, A RENEWAL OF PREVIOUS DEBATE REGARDING PROVISIONS OF THE MONTREUX CONVENTION ON SHIPS OF THE KIEV CLASS.

2. LARGELY AS A RESULT OF THE KIEV'S DEPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH AND A DESIRE TO "LET A SLEEPING DOG LIE", NATO

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HAS BEEN QUIET ON THIS ISSUE FOR THE PAST YEAR AND OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT IT WILL PROBABLY REMAIN SO. HOWEVER, THERE MAY STILL BE UNHAPPINESS WITH TURKISH DECISION TO PERMIT THE KIEV'S ORIGINAL PASSAGE WITHOUT CONSULTATION IN NATO (REF B). FURTHERMORE, THERE MAY BE PRESS COVERAGE SHOULD THE KIEV RETRANSMIT THE STRAITS WHICH WOULD TEND TO FOCUS ATTENTION SHARPLY ON THE ISSUE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE FLAG THE KIEV'S MOVEMENTS FOR ANY THOUGHTS WASHINGTON MIGHT HAVE SHOULD THE PROBLEM RESURFACE IN NATO. BENNETT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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